

Charting Weather

Activity Objectives

- To apply observation and inference skills
- To introduce students to collecting and recording data with a pictograph

Materials

- ✓ Large month-long calendar
- ✓ Cut-outs of weather symbols (see below)
- ✓ Large sheets of paper for two graphs
- ✓ 8" x 10" sheets of paper for each child to make a paper airplane
- ✓ Rubber cement or two-sided tape

Background

Cut out the weather symbols. Get a large calendar. Make two large graphs. One chart should have the number of days up the left side and five columns across for Rainy, Snowy, Sunny, Cloudy and Windy. The second chart should have the number of days up the left side and two columns for across for "Flying Today" and "No Flying Today".

Too rainy, too windy and too snowy days are the days that most small plane pilots do not fly. Your students will be basing their decisions on paper airplanes, but that's not too far different from the small plane without the fancy instrumentation of the larger ones.

Instructions

1. Help the children make simple paper airplanes.
2. Let them fly their planes inside when they are done.
3. Put up the calendar and graphs and explain that you will be charting the weather and deciding each day whether it's a good day to fly the paper airplanes outside.
4. Ask questions like:
 - What have you noticed about the weather today?
 - What did you notice yesterday? Are there any similarities? Differences?
 - What could happen outside that would make it a GOOD day to fly?
 - What could happen outside that would make it a BAD day to fly?

5. Show the students the weather symbols and explain that they will decide on an appropriate symbol for each day.
6. Before recess, have students make the decision about the kind of weather they observe.
7. Put the appropriate weather symbol on the calendar with rubber cement (on one side only, so you can pull it off easily) or with two-sided tape.
8. Have a student color the appropriate square on the first graph.
9. Decide, given the weather conditions, if it would be a good day to fly their planes.
10. Talk about WHY they think so.
11. Color the appropriate square on the second chart.
12. Encourage students to fly their planes on good days.
13. At the end of month, tally the different weather days and the Flying/No Flying days.
Discuss the overall conditions for the month.

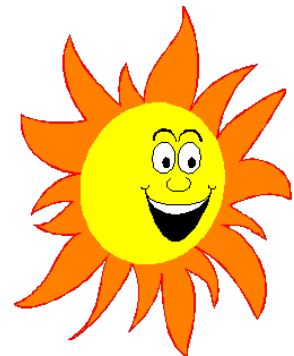
Weather Symbols



RAINY



SNOWY



SUNNY



WINDY



CLOUDY